

COMPOSED FOR THE BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL, 1912.

*W. H. Adams  
arr. from H. W. D.*

# Song of Saint Francis *Sept 14. 1912.*

being certain Praises of the Lord as concerning His creatures which St. Francis of Assisi did compose a little before his departure to encourage the hearts of those that should hear them and that the Lord might be praised of man in His creatures.

SET TO MUSIC

FOR SOLI, CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

BY

H. WALFORD DAVIES.

(Op. 36)

PRICE 3/- NET.

NOVELLO & CO. LTD., 160 WARDOUR STREET, LONDON, W.  
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The words here used have been compiled and adapted from the original (as found in Brother Leo's *Mirror of Perfection*) and from various translations, notably that of the late Mr. Sebastian Evans, to whom, as indeed to many others who have given valuable help, the writer owes a deep debt of gratitude.

# SONG OF SAINT FRANCIS

being certain Praises of the Lord  
as concerning His creatures.

I. Prologue.

*Altissime, Omnipotens,  
Bone Domine !  
Thine be the praises,  
And the glory,  
And the honour,  
And every blessing,  
Ad Te solum, Altissime, sunt debita ;  
And no mortal is worthy to call upon Thee.  
Praised be Thou, O my Lord, of all Thy creatures !  
Laudare Domine meus !*

Of Brother Sun.

Above all of Brother Sun, my lord,  
Who doth bring in the dawn,  
And doth give us the light,  
For fair is he and radiant with great splendour.  
*Teque, Altissime, demonstrat.  
Laudare !*

II. Of Sister Moon  
and the Stars.

*Laudare Domine meus*  
Of Sister Moon and the Stars ;  
In the heaven hast Thou formed them  
Clear and precious and beautiful.  
*Laudare !*

III. Of Brother  
Wind and the  
Air.

*Laudare Domine meus*  
Of Brother Wind and the Air,  
Of the clouds and the clear,  
And of all weathers  
By the which Thou upholdest life in all Thy creatures.  
*Laudare !*

IV. Of Sister  
Water.

*Laudare Domine meus*  
Of Sister Water ;  
For manifold is her use,  
And humble is she and precious,  
And chaste.  
*Laudare !*

v. Of Brother Fire.

*Laudare Domine meus*  
Of Brother Fire,  
By whom Thou dost illumine the night.  
Comely is he and jocund,  
And masterful, and strong.

*Laudare !*

vi. Of Sister Earth  
our Mother.

*Laudare Domine meus*  
Of Sister Earth our Mother  
That doth cherish us  
And hath us in keeping,  
And doth bring forth fruit in abundance,  
And flowers of many colours,  
And the grass.

*Laudare !*

vii. Of them that  
forgive for the  
love of God.

*Laudare Domine meus*  
Of them that forgive others for love of Thee,  
And that do endure adversity and tribulation,  
Yea, blessed are they that do endure in peace ;  
Of Thee, *Allissime*, shall they be crowned.

*Laudare !*

viii. Of Sister  
Death.

The blessed Francis, hearing that death was close at hand gave praise to God and said: "Forasmuch as that, an it please the Lord, I am so soon to die, call Brother Angelo and Brother Leo unto me that they may sing to me of Sister Death." Then those two brethren with many tears chanted the Song that the holy man had made.

*Laudare Domine meus*  
Of Sister Death  
From whom no man living may escape.  
Woe to them who die in mortal sin ;  
Blessed are they that find themselves in Thy most  
holy will,  
For them the second death can do no hurt.

ix. Epilogue.

*Laudate et benedicite Dominum,  
Et gratias agite,  
Et cum grandi humilitate servite.*

END.